



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Scottish Government

Understanding the nature of hate crime

A new report into the extent of hate crimes committed in Scotland has highlighted almost two-thirds of all race-related hate offences had a visible minority ethnic (non-white) victim, a group that makes up around 4% of the population.

The detailed study looking at the characteristics of victims and perpetrators of reported hate crime incidents in 2018-19 also found that:

- around a third of crimes involved a victim who experienced the incident at work
- almost two-thirds of hate crime victims and three-quarters of perpetrators were male ...
- in around two-fifths of religion aggravated hate crimes the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Catholic community ...
- in a quarter of such crimes prejudice was shown towards the Muslim community and in one in ten cases it was towards the Protestant community ...

Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf said: "This report provides more detail of how hate crime affects our communities and is a timely reminder that crime motivated by hate is an all too common occurrence, with real-life impacts on victims and those around them. Just from those that are reported, we know that an average 18 hate crimes are committed every day in Scotland.

"The fact that visible minority ethnic groups, which represent 4% of the population, experience two-thirds of all race-related hate crimes shows we have much more to do to overcome prejudice, while the findings also highlight the need for more to be done to ensure workplaces are an environment free from hatred and from fear. ...

Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell said: "Scotland is an inclusive and tolerant nation, but we are not immune from the constant threat that prejudice and intolerance can bring to our society. Given the impact it has on individuals and communities it is important that everybody plays their part to challenge it at all times. ...

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie of Police Scotland said: "Hate crime is abhorrent and insidious and will not be tolerated in Scotland. Targeting anyone because of a disability, their race, religion, sexuality or transgender identity - or a perception of these

characteristics - is despicable.

"This report shows the extent of hate crime which has been reported to Police Scotland in 2018-19, but we know this is an under-reported offence. People who are victims have often been targeted on numerous occasions before they report to our officers and can find it difficult to talk about it. We encourage anyone who has been a victim - or who has witnessed a hate crime - to come forward and report it. We take every report seriously and will carry out a robust investigation on every occasion. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.scot/news/understanding-the-nature-of-hate-crime/>

A Study into the Characteristics of Police Recorded Hate Crime in Scotland Report

<https://tinyurl.com/ybl8rtkx>

Tables

<https://tinyurl.com/yptxeegm>

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Holocaust

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [1516] Good practice in Holocaust education – That this House welcomes news that five schools across Scotland have been recognised for good practice in Holocaust education, with Alva Academy, Chryston High, Gryffe High, and Mearns Castle High awarded level one status, and Barrhead High School receiving the prestigious level two award; notes that this initiative is delivered by Vision Schools Scotland, a partnership launched in 2017 between the University of the West of Scotland and the Holocaust Educational Trust, funded by the Association of Jewish Refugees and the Gordon Cook Foundation; further notes that a Vision School is one committed to the view that learning about the Holocaust is a vital part of young people's education and that to receive the award, schools must demonstrate their commitment to the importance of Holocaust education and to developing teacher knowledge to ensure continued expertise in this subject matter; acknowledges that the Vision Schools Programme embeds responsible citizenship at its core, a key principle of Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence, as it encourages effective and sustained school-based Holocaust education; and commends Vision Schools Scotland Director, Paula Cowan, and her team for their inspiring contribution to teaching and learning about the Holocaust.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58142>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Palestinians: Textbooks

Wayne David (Labour) [153141] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with their EU counterparts on the Georg Eckert Institute review of

Palestinian textbooks; and when the findings of that review will be published.

James Cleverly: The UK remains in close dialogue with our European partners regarding the ongoing review of Palestinian textbooks, including urging them to complete the review as soon as possible. We understand the EU are now moving towards the final reporting stage of the study and we expect the review to be completed in the near future. The UK has repeatedly lobbied the EU to push for publication, but this is ultimately a decision for the EU.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-11/153141>

Palestinians: Radicalism

Wayne David (Labour) [153142] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 8 December 2020 to Question 126811, on Palestinians: Radicalism, what recent assessment he has made of the (a) possible timeline for the Palestinian Authority's revision of educational textbooks and (b) the potential effect of those revisions on affairs in that region.

James Cleverly: We understand that the Palestinian Authority (PA) has already updated textbooks for grades 1-6 and hopes to update the remaining textbooks as soon as possible. The independent review of the content in Palestinian textbooks led by our European partners will include a sample of these textbooks introduced for school year 2020-21. We expect the study to be complete in the near future and will study its findings carefully. The UK will continue to engage with the PA on their plans to revise the remaining textbooks for grades seven and above.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-11/153142>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-08/126811>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2622>

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2592>

Domestic Abuse Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2709>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2579>

Freedom of Speech (Universities) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2820>

Genocide Determination Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2621>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2608>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

Marriage (Authorised Belief Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2795>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2584>

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Human Rights Act Review (closing date 3 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/138635/call-for-evidence-the-governments-independent-human-rights-act-review/>

The future of the [Welsh Government] Equality and Inclusion Funding Programme (closing date 30 March 2021)

<https://gov.wales/future-equality-and-inclusion-funding-programme>

**** Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS): Documenting the Lives of Ethnic and Religious Minorities in a Time of Crisis** (closing date not stated)

bit.ly/evensurvey

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19 (closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438